



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

August 10, 2022

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Room 118 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Co-Chair Cowles,

This week, we learned that Michael Gableman recorded a robocall in support of Speaker Robin Vos' primary opponent in the 63rd Assembly District, Adam Steen. In the pre-recorded call, Gableman states that Speaker Vos, "never wanted a real investigation into the 2020 election in Wisconsin."

In light of this revelation, it is imperative that the Legislative Audit Bureau conduct a thorough review of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). We have numerous concerns related to Gableman's allegation. First, if the Speaker did not want an actual review of the election, then why has over \$1 million dollars of taxpayer money been spent to perpetuate election conspiracies? Second, Michael Gableman using the investigation for partisan political purposes in a campaign robocall puts into question the merits of whether this investigation did any work at all, or if they were simply using taxpayer dollars to further a divisive political agenda.

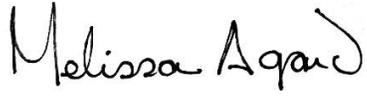
A request to audit the creation and actions of the Office of Special Counsel has been brought to this committee before. In February, the Democrats who serve on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee proposed an audit request during a meeting of the committee. Unfortunately, debate on that request was cut off before all committee members had a chance to be heard, preventing an opportunity to reign in the OSC before it grossly exceeded its budget.

Again in March, Democrats proposed that the State Senate direct the LAB to get to the bottom of exactly what was taking place at the OSC. Because the impropriety of the OSC investigation was becoming more and more clear, that petition gained bipartisan support, but not enough to begin this important work.

As members of the Joint Audit Committee, it is our duty to look at different aspects of state government to assess their efficiency and effectiveness. The OSC appears to be one of the most blatant misappropriations of tax dollars in our state's history. Using the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau to dig deeper into what happened with this office and shed needed light on its inner workings is vital to ensuring public trust in the legislature and in our democratic systems.

We hope you'll consider supporting a comprehensive audit of the Office of Special Counsel.

Sincerely,



Senator Melissa Agard
16th Senate District



Senator Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District



Representative Dianne Hesselbein
79th Assembly District



Representative Francesca Hong
76th Assembly District

cc: Speaker Robin Vos